

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is entered prior to a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified patent application. This amendment is made in response to a Notice of Omitted Items in a Non-Provisional Application (the “Notice”), dated February 10, 2004.

In the Notice, it was pointed out that the application as filed did not include Fig. 7, although Fig. 7 is referenced and described in the text of the application. Upon investigation, Applicant discovered that Fig. 7 was inadvertently omitted from the filing of the application. Consequently, Applicant files this amendment to add Fig. 7 to the present application. A copy of Fig. 7 is attached hereto. No change to the filing date of the application should be made.

The addition of Fig. 7 does not enter new matter into the application for the following reasons. Fig. 7 is virtually identical to Fig. 1 which was included with the application as originally filed. The only difference between Figs. 1 and 7 is the illustration in Fig. 7 of “flow field modification features” (710). The “flow field modification features” are described in the text of the application as originally filed.

As shown in Fig. 7, the “flow field modification features” (710) are added to the flow field within a flow cavity (150, 150c). The flow cavity (150, 150c) is also illustrated in Fig. 1 which was included in the original filing of the application.

Support for, and a full description of, the flow field modification features (710) is found in Applicant’s specification as originally filed in, for example, paragraph 0051.

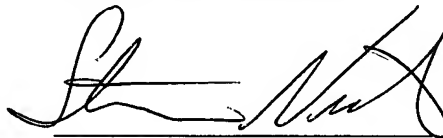
[0051] Fig. 7 illustrates another fuel cell stack assembly (700) wherein flow field modification features are included in the fluidic cavity (150c) to improve the fuel distribution uniformity and utilization within the stack assembly (700). While the flow field modification features (710) could take the form of any number of different

geometries, Fig. 7 illustrates a serpentine fuel flow path from the introduction points of the fuel on the needle (125) to the exhaust holes (155).

Consequently, given Fig. 1 and paragraph 0051 which were in Applicant's specification as originally filed, Fig. 7 does not add any new matter to the application and is fully supported by the material originally filed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that Fig. 7 be added to the application, without any change to the filing date of the application.

If any fees are owed in connection with this paper which have not been elsewhere authorized, authorization is hereby given to charge those fees to Deposit Account 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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